INFORMATION REPORT

India

COUNTRY SUBJECT

Shankerso Liore

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July-August 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO

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- Shankerao More, leader of one section of the "orkers' and Peasants' Party ('PP), recently told a uslim businessman in Poona that if the latter would help the 'PP by bringing the Luslims to join the movement, he would be helped financially for organizing the Suslims. 1
- More is not unequivocally a Communist. Essentially, he is an opportunist and could be bought by any party. A capitalist in private life, More resigned from the Concress Party, because he felt it had neglected him.
- 3. Subsequently, he sought to become the leader of the Marathas in the Deccan. He did achieve, early in this effort, some peasant support, particularly from non-Brahmins in the Ahmadnagar area.
- At about this time, liore was contacted by certain Madrasi pro-Communists, including Ellapa Balvant, who is now one of More's confidants.
- 5. More's peasant support (paragraph 3) ceased when he released his views through the 'PP. The poasant masses feared that if they supported him they would lose the propriety rights to their lands. His current proposals that the peasan's form a Collective Farming Society-aided by modern implements and manure to be furnished by the "PP-has been received with suspicion.
 - Comment. The wording of this paragraph, taken verbatim from the original report, has several possible meanings, viz:
 - The "PP would pay the businessman a salary for recruiting Euslims for the "PP.
 - The "PP would meet all or part of the businessman's expenses for such recruiting.
 - The "PP would finance the businessman in organizing Muslims, if the ultimate purpose of that organization were to bring

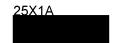
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Muslims into the VPP.

In any case, the proposal is significant, if true, because it represents another attempt to draw Muslims into the Communist fold.

Comment. This apparently resulted in More's connection with the UPP.

Party in Madras and in Hyderabad. He probably receives financial aid from Madras via such individuals as Balwant. He seems to spend more money than his assets would sensibly permit, and has himself hinted that the UPP is being helped from overseas (sic). Using the name of the notorious bandit Patri Sarkar of Satara, More has distributed money to farmers in that area.